

Appln No. 09/872,645

Amdt date November 14, 2005

Reply to Office action of September 29, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 4, 13, 22, 28 - 30, 34, 40 - 42, 45, 52 and 58 - 62 are now in the application. Claims 4, 13, 45, 52 and 58 - 62 have been allowed. Claims 22, 28 - 30, 34 and 40 have been currently amended. Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 12, 14 - 21, 23 - 27, 31 - 33, 35 - 39, 43 - 44, 46 - 51 and 53 - 57 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 19 - 21, 23 - 28, 31 - 33 and 35 - 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 6,772,391 to Shin in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,862,460 to Rich.

The Applicant has cancelled Claims 19 - 21, 23 - 27, 31 - 33 and 35 - 39.

With regard to rejected Claims 28 and 40, the Examiner contends that even though the transmit control unit/means of Claims 28 and 40, respectively, are not described in either Shin or Rich, that it/they would be required to operate the switches.

The Applicant has amended Claim 28 to incorporate the limitations of now cancelled former base Claim 19. The Applicant has similarly amended Claim 40 to incorporate the limitations of now cancelled former base Claim 31. The Applicant has further amended Claims 29 and 30 to include the term "transmit control unit" instead of "transmit control logic unit" in accordance with the terminology used in base Claim 28, as well as Fig. 1 and the Specification.

The Applicant submits that while it might be true that switches must be operated somehow (see page 4 of the Office

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Action), such operation does not have to be controlled by a transmit control unit or transmit control means, respectively. For example, it appears that in the case of Shin, switches 43, 45 are controlled by the constituent encoders 21, 23. See Shin at 5:50-51 (providing that "[t]he first 21 and second 23 encoders switch inputs"). The Applicant, by contrast, uses a separate transmit control unit, which, among other things, can be configured to control the interface. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Shin suggests control of the switches by constituent encoders, rather than by a separate transmit control unit. Hence neither Shin nor Rich disclose the configuration claimed by the Applicant. As such, neither Claim 28 nor Claim 40 is believed unpatentable over Shin in view of Rich.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 22, 29 - 30, 34 and 41 - 42 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has also noted that these Claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 22 and 34 have been amended following the Examiner's suggestion and should therefore now be allowable.

Amended claims 29 - 30 depend on amended Claim 28, which the Applicant believes allowable in light of the amendments and the remarks supra. Similarly, Claims 41 - 42 depend on amended Claim 40, which the Applicant also believes allowable based on its amendment and the remarks supra.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the Claims are patenably distinct over the prior art and that all the objections and rejections to the

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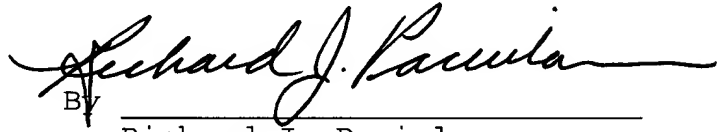
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Claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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